

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid [998.163]

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

Blanche Leach Capitol Dedication Scrapbook

Abstract: A scrapbook containing newspaper clippings and original photographs of the 1924 pageant celebrating the new Capitol Building in Jefferson City as arranged by Blanche Leach.

Extent: 1 volume

Physical Description: Paper; Photographs

Location: Missouri State Archives; Stacks

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Alternative Formats: Microfilm and digital

Access Restrictions: Patrons must use the digital copy or microfilm

Publication Restrictions: None

Preferred Citation: [Item description], [date]; *Blanche Leach Capitol Dedication Scrapbook*, Record Group 998.163; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Acquisition Information: Purchase; Accession #1988-0205

Processing Information: Processing completed by EW on 12/16/2016. Updated by EW on 03/23/2021.

HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Ida Blanche Shaeffer was born in Columbus, Mississippi on April 18, 1879 to Charles and Alice (Smith) Shaeffer. Between 1880 and 1900 the family moved to Sedalia, Pettis County, Missouri. Blanche married Frank Sayre Leach on October 8, 1902 in Sedalia. The couple had no children.

Blanche – nearly always referred to as “Mrs. Frank Leach” – became a renowned choreographer and director of pageants. By the 1920s, she was the sought-after director for many state functions that would involve pageantry of any kind, pageantry being public performances of song, dance,

poetry, parades, etc. Mrs. Leach participated in the Missouri Centennial performance at the State Fair in August 1921, attended by thousands individuals and involving hundreds performers. She served as one of two pageant queens: the Queen of Missouri.

Many other engagements took place in Hannibal, MO, Paris, MO, Norfolk, VA, St. Louis, MO, Stroudsburg, PA and Miami, FL. Blanche Leach died March 9, 1959 in Sedalia.

She is best known for the 1924 Capitol Dedication Pageant, which was divided into five parts: a prologue and four epochs.

Prologue:

Features a woman dressed as the “Spirit of Jefferson City” accompanied by the four epoch queens and a children’s choir.

Epoch One: Epoch of the Pioneer

Picturing the early settling of the Louisiana and Missouri Territories, presided over by Mrs. Herbert S. Hadley, wife of the former Governor.

Epoch Two: Epoch of Development

Showing the growth of the state after settlement, presided over by Mrs. Elliott W. Major, wife of the current Governor.

Epoch Three: Epoch of the World War

Depiction of war scenes, presided by Mrs. Frederick D. Gardner.

Epoch Four: Epoch of Progress

An attempt to exhibit the rapid strides toward a greater civilization that have been taken in the past few years, presided by Mrs. Arthur M. Hyde.

Rain, thunder, and lightning cut the pageant short at the end of Epoch Three. The pageant closed with a fireworks display.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

“Missouri Pageant Depicts Periods of State History,” St. Louis Post-Dispatch. August 10, 1921: p. 3.

“Mrs. Leach, Long a Civic Leader, Dies,” The Sedalia Democrat. March 10, 1959: p. 1.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Related Collections

MS006 Edwin William Stephens Collection

MS013 Theodore Lacaff Diaries
MS027 Thomas Garfield Cooper Photograph Collection
MS066 Peter Herman Rackers Photograph Collection
MS111 Ralph Miller Capitol Fire Photograph Collection
MS268 New Capitol Day Collection
MS313 Van Gundy Photograph Collection
MS314 Tom Sater Capital City Collection
MS321 James C. Worth Photograph Collection
MS441 Alfred A. Speer Capitol Collection
RG395 State Capitol Commission Board
RG395 State Capitol Commission Board Photographs
RG395.2 Missouri State Capitol Commission
RG395.2 Missouri State Capitol Commission Photographs
RG396 Capitol Decoration Commission

Found in Archives RG000.106 Department of Higher Education State Documents Collection:

Shoemaker, Floyd C. "Dedication of Missouri's Capitol, October 6, 1924." Missouri Historical Review. Vol. 19 No. 2 January 1925: pp. 300-303.

Additional External Resources

Unknown

CAPITOL DEDICATION SCRAPBOOK, 1924

Arrangement: N/a

Scope and Content

The scrapbook contains newspaper clippings and photographs of the Capitol Dedication Pageant held on the capitol grounds on October 6, 1924.

Color, high resolution TIF images of the entire book are on three DVDs in Reference, DVD Cabinet Drawer 3 as well as on the Z Drive. Patrons must use either the DVD or the microfilm reel #M151 to access this record. Several photographs are also available through the Archives' Flickr album online here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/missouristatearchives/albums/72157648499718289>.

Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Contents	Date
	OB6	none	Souvenir Scrap Book, Newspaper Clippings and Pictures; Dedicatory Ceremonies and Pageant; Jefferson City, Missouri	1924